through installation of equipment such as Doplar Weather Radar, Automatic Rain Gauges, Wingh Profilers, etc. In addition a Memorandum of Understanding with METEO, France (the Frence Meteorological Agency) has been signed out to jointly work on Modeling and strenghtening the IT infrastructure to improve the capabilities of IMD. IMD will have a relatively modern and well equippped forecasting system by the end of 2008.

In view of the above it is clear that persons manning the weather forecast division are not a fault and there is no need to take action against them.

Proposal for single window clearance

†684. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for "single window clearance" under the Charimanship of a Scientist alongwith members of many Ministries has been made to sanction G.M. crops as per the National Biotechnology Strategy Development Document;

(b) if so, whether this proposal will be accepted; and

(c) whether the Indian farmers will be affected by accepting this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) As per the draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy document, it has been suggested to establish a Single Window Clearance Mechanism for all biotech products. The draft strategy document has been circulated to all stake holder Ministries/departments for their comments. In principle the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment and Forests have accepted the establishment of National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority for single window clearance mechanism for all biotech products including Genetically Modified crops.

(c) Establishment of a single window clearance mechanism through National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority would not affect in any way the interests of the Indian farmers.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.